

37. The method according to Claim 31, wherein the additive is present in an amount not exceeding 20% by weight of the intumescent layer.

38. The method according to Claim 37, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, DMSO and ethylene glycol. --

REMARKS

Claims 14 through 38 are pending. The specification has been amended to place the application in more conventional U.S. format, and the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and present claims of varying scope. Favorable consideration is solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a personal interview will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the following telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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